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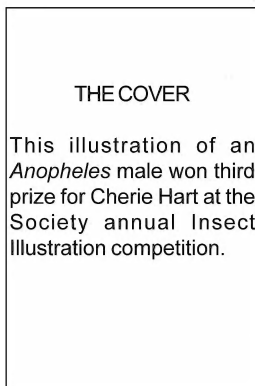
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NOTICE

Statements made in *Myrmecia* do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Entomological Society. Items printed herein should not be reproduced without permission of the author of the material.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Material for publication in our November 2002 issue should be in the hands of the Editor before

Friday 11 October 2002.

Copy is requested as .rtf e-mail attachments at:
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EDITORIAL

"In the future, there will be no more secure jobs, only secure workers". I wonder if I am alone in finding this statement, from one of Australia's most senior science administrators, just a tad glib. Presumably the message is that workers will be sufficiently secure personally to move freely between jobs. But how does this apply to entomology? In recent years I have been associated with two excellent PhD students, both subsequently with outstanding publication records in major international journals at postdoctoral level. However, both of them are so 'secure' personally that the services of both are now lost to Australian science. Should we consider this a good example of the mobility of expertise? Or are we lacking the vision and vigour to bring to the notice of the public and politicians effectively the value to society of studies on insects? In this issue of *Myrmecia* we have a short account of an effort by Jane Wright to raise even higher the excellent profile of research into the problems of grain storage. An independent consultant was employed to report on the benefits to the grain industry of such research, with the startling conclusion that every dollar invested in this research had yielded 21 dollars to the industry. Such efforts, telling the public of the benefits that entomology can bring, cannot guarantee our money supply – nothing in life is certain except death and taxes. But in this instance a \$20 million agreement was signed in July that will ensure science and industry combine forces to further protect the future of Australia's grains industry. Surely such efforts are better than merely telling each other of the importance of our work at specialist conferences? We need to find ways of regularly getting through to the public the dollar value of insect studies. Consider the revolution that I have seen in my lifetime in how Australians eat. "Oh yes – that is due to the immigration of so many people from Mediterranean countries." True – in part. Much of the change is actually due to entomologists! In many parts of Australia the law used to forbid food being served out of doors except in fly-screened areas. Now we have an enormously popular, and highly profitable, outdoor café society – made possible by the bushfly control programme using dung beetles. The effect of that work by entomologists has produced huge and ongoing economic benefits. Similarly, *Myrmecia* has carried

reports recently on quarantine as well as biting fly work by our members. This issue carries a short report on an entomologist who was honoured for conservation work in the rainforests of eastern Australia. Such studies have an important dollar value, whether in terms of people not bitten by flies, or crops not damaged, or visits by tourists spending large sums of money around areas of natural interest and beauty. It is not easy keeping the public and politicians aware of our science, but we need more independent estimates, like the one Jane Wright has organised, of our value to society – specifically in dollar terms. Recent comments about CSIRO in the press seem to me to largely ignore the changes in societal values over the past 20 years. At successive elections, the public is encouraged to focus on promises of tax reductions and other short term benefits, and the taxpayer has progressively been ‘educated’ to downgrade the importance of long term investment in societal needs. Science cannot stand aside from such changes in public mores. Being passionate about our science is not enough. We have a product we consider useful, even essential; but we have to create enthusiastically markets for that product, so that our work is valued on society’s terms. The alternative is surely to run the risk of being dismissed as hobbyists.

LAM

Entomologist honoured

On Australia Day 2002 an O.A.M. was awarded to the entomologist **Geoff Williams**, of the Lorient Wildlife Refuge, Lansdowne, NSW. This award was for “Service to conservation and the environment through research and promotion of Australia’s animal and plant biodiversity, and through advice to local government on rainforest rehabilitation”. This work extended over 30 years, and has included not only Geoff’s original research in a wide range of subjects (including thrips as pollinators of rainforest trees!), but collaboration with local, State, and Federal agencies. One particular project involved the restoration of the threatened floodplain rainforest remnant known as Lansdowne Brush. These eastern New South Wales rainforest remnants include many species of plants and insects that are not found anywhere else. When carefully restored to something like their pre-European settlement glory they are not just important biodiversity refuges, they can become important tourist venues. Such work requires extensive scientific as well as political skills, ensuring that communities recognise the value of such restoration to their own economy and well-being.

Farewell to Ray Kumar

After 12 years in PNG, Ray Kumar has decided to retire and move with his wife to their home in Nevada. He was offered a further three year contract at the University, but not till about three weeks before he finally left at the end of June. Ray took a PhD in entomology at UQ in 1965, and was one of the Founder Members of our Society. He taught at the University of Ghana from 1965 to 1982, and was Chair of the Zoology Department 1978-81. From there he went to Port Harcourt in eastern Nigeria, as Professor of Biology and then Dean of the Postgraduate School, until 1990 when he returned to our part of the world. Ray says that he has taught over 10,000 undergraduates during his career, and has supervised a total of 33 postgraduates. His publication list includes over 130 titles, ranging from fine details of bug genitalia to studies on a range of insect pests of crops. *Myrmecia* recently included a review of the first volume of his major review of the insect pests of agriculture in PNG, and it is much to be regretted that retirement will preclude the preparation of the second volume. His preparatory notes and literature for that volume, amounting to some 80 kilos, have been sent to the Queensland Museum. Ray has been part of the Australian entomological scene for 40 years, and his many friends and colleagues will wish him well in his new abode.

Golden returns from grains research

CSIRO has been collaborating with the Australian grain industry for more than 30 years on keeping insect pests out of, whilst keeping the quality in, stored grain. A report and cost benefit analysis on this collaboration was issued recently as *CSIRO Entomology Technical Paper 39* “The benefit of the CSIRO Stored Grain Research Laboratory to the Australian grain industry”. This independent report, by David Adamson (Resource Evaluation Services, Brisbane), demonstrates that the return on investment in that research laboratory will be more than two billion dollars in benefits by 2025. That is estimated to be \$2.47 in benefits for every tonne of grain grown in Australia in the year 2002, growing to \$4.03 by 2005. Putting the figures another way, for every dollar invested in the Laboratory the grain industry has had a return of \$21.42, sufficient to put a smile on the face of the most battle-weary grain grower.

The Chairman of the Board of the SGRL, John Kerin, presented these outcomes at a function to launch the release of the Laboratory’s cost benefit analysis and celebrate more than 30 years of research success and proven benefits to the Australian community. “The SGRL is a great national asset,” Mr Kerin



Geoff Garrett (CEO, CSIRO), Gerard McMullen (AWB Limited), John Kerin (Chairman, SGRL Board), Jane Wright (Head, SGRL), and Jim Cullen (Chief, CSIRO Entomology).



Stored Grain Research Laboratory staff : Katarina Mikac, Kate Swan and Nina Patelis.
[It is with great regret that we must announce that our colleague Nina died in a car accident on the Kings Highway in the second week of July; she is deeply missed]

said, "and engages in the best scientific practice". He went on to say that he passionately believed in agricultural research in Australia, and when it came to scientific research in general, "as a nation we must spend more on education and development or be bugged." Supporting these comments, Geoff Garrett, the Chief Executive of CSIRO, described the SGRL as one of the most productive associations with industry in the history of the CSIRO. He said the laboratory had been 10 to 30 years ahead of its time when it was first set up, and as a result of SGRL's record of success Australian grain has an enviable reputation world-wide with our wheat in demand in premium markets.

In the 1960s and 70s Australia's reputation for insect infested grain was beginning to cause immense problems with its key markets, China and Russia. The development of insecticide resistance to Malathion, after only five years of use against stored grain pests, added to Australia's woes. It was against this commercial background that CSIRO and the Australian Wheat Board (now AWB Limited), signed an agreement to set up the SGRL in 1970, and in 1973 the new building in Canberra was officially opened along with its original team of five scientists. The grain storage industry has funded the Laboratory to this day, with Australia's Bulk Handling Companies becoming directly involved in 1986.

Despite our dry, warm climate, Australia must maintain its ability to meet an export requirement of 'nil tolerance' of live insects, and continue to deliver grain to the customer that is highly acceptable in all facets of quality. Contrast this to 1917-18, when weevils were in plague proportions. In one bulk storage, workers swept up and destroyed up to one tonne of weevils a day. Workers could even hear the constant rustling as the weevils moved about in the grain sacks. Multiplying at will, the weevils devoured up to 40 tonnes of wheat per day - a process that went on for months. Our hardy pioneers who sang about "weevils in the flour" might not recognise the place today. But certainly they would recognise the message of this report - that investment in science delivers tremendous benefits to Society.

ABRS

Another restructure

The Federal Budget for 2002/2003 has required many government departments to reduce expenditure, including Environment Australia. As a consequence the ABRs budget has been reduced by \$500,000 to approximately \$3,000,000 per annum. The Minister for Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr David Kemp, has recently approved \$1,500,000 of ABRs Partici-

patory Program grant projects for 2002/2003, and letters were sent to both successful and unsuccessful applicants in late June.

The budget cut has required ABRs to reduce staff numbers, and we are currently undergoing a restructure to deal with a loss of positions, while at the same time trying to prepare ourselves better for increased web delivery of data. Keith Houston and Graham Ross, both long-standing ABRs staff members, have decided to retire at this time, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their huge contribution to ABRs over the years. We will never be able to replace that level of expertise, and ABRs will be poorer without their talent in the team. I am confident that both Keith and Graham will continue to help ABRs in new and different ways to achieve our objectives, and we look forward to them helping us forge our future directions as part of the wider taxonomic community.

The exact new formulation of ABRs is still in the process of development, and will be announced in due course. In the meantime please bear with us as we do our best to continue to serve the taxonomic community while reinventing ourselves to meet new demands.

Catalogue of publications

ABRS has now produced a catalogue of all of its publications. This is included in our newsletter *Biologue*, together with purchase details. The intention is to update the catalogue at least annually. To get a copy, please register on the ABRs Directory (<http://www.environment.gov.au/abrs/ABRS-Directory.html>), and *Biologue* will be mailed to you automatically.

New publications

Flora of Australia Volume 43 Poaceae (part 1 of 4) will be issued during 2002, as will a Lucid key to grasses. The volume comprises 428 pages, 55 colour plates, and a number of line and half tone illustrations; hardcover volume \$100, softcover \$85. See: www.publish.csiro.au

AusGrass. An interactive encyclopaedia of Australian grasses. This cd-rom will be released in 2002, in conjunction with *Flora* vol. 43. Price \$110, but it will be available in a package with the *Flora* Volume 43 for \$180 the pair.

The Families of Flowering Plants of Australia. An interactive identification guide. A revised edition of this popular cd-rom is being issued. A major new addition is a chapter written by Kevin Thiele which provides a brilliant introduction to the structure of flowers, fruits, inflorescences and other parts of flowering plants. Beginners and those with limited knowledge of botany

should find this feature alone worth the \$69.95 price of the CD.

Key to Spider Subfamilies of Australia, an interactive Lucid key, developed by Robert Raven, Barbara Baehr and Mark Harvey under a 'grant contract' from ABRs, will be available shortly from CSIRO Publishing at a cost of \$89.95. The package comprises three fully illustrated keys, an excellent glossary of terms (all linked to appropriate labelled drawings and images), distribution maps and full species lists. The skilful line drawings and splendid scanning micrographs and photographs make the keys a delight to use.

Ian CRESSWELL
Director, ABRs
4 July 2002

NORMAN RODD Collection

The Entomology Department of the Australian Museum has been exceptionally fortunate to receive a substantial collection of bees, wasps, flies and other insects from Norman Rodd of Mount Tomah. The collection totals more than 17,000 specimens housed in 3 cabinets. This is the second large collection that Norman has donated to the Museum. The first was assembled while he was employed as an industrial chemist in Sydney, and he and his wife Marj were living in Cheltenham. It provided an excellent picture of the bees and wasps to be found in the Lane Cove valley between 1940 and the early 1950's and a similar view of the areas around Patonga and Jamberoo. After Norman's retirement, he and Marj moved to the Blue Mountains and began collecting all over again. This second collection, which the Museum has just received, not only includes wasps, bees, flies and other insects of the Blue Mountains but contains the results of three extensive collecting trips that took the Rodds to the tip of Cape York three times and to the Northern Territory and Western Australia. It has already, while in Norman's care, been of great value to a number of PhD students and professional taxonomists.

The Rodd collections are also historically important and remind us of the importance of individual enthusiasts in the development of scientific studies. Norman became interested in native bees in 1930, after reading an article by Tarlton Rayment of whom he became a friend and important collector. Rayment himself was greatly inspired by the English-born American entomologist Theodore Cockerell, the world's greatest authority on bees in the first half of the 20th century.

Norman Rodd made substantial contributions not only to that era of Australian bee taxonomy, but also to

the resurgence of interest that followed Charles Michener's 1958-59 visit to Australia. Most, if not all, Australian hymenopterists will have visited Norman Rodd and studied material in his collection. They all speak warmly, not only of his enthusiasm, but also of his personal kindness and generosity. The contribution to the study of Australian bees, wasps and flies by Norman Rodd has been recognised on several occasions in the traditional way - for taxonomists - of naming species after him. But bee taxonomists themselves are probably more in awe of the number of species that are, or were until very recently, known only from specimens collected by him.

The N.W. Rodd Collection has been warmly welcomed into the Australian Museum not only as an extremely valuable scientific resource, but also as a permanent reminder of the outstanding contribution of a generous man who has affected the lives of almost everyone with an interest in Australian Hymenoptera.

Michael BATLEY
Max MOULDS

Lousy — yet good!

The 2nd International Congress on Phthiraptera was held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, from 8–12 July. Thirty years after the first International Phthiraptera meeting, over 90 delegates gathered to hear and present papers, and to discuss major problems from public health issues, to hypotheses on the co-evolution of lice and their hosts, phylogeny and evolution of lice, to phylogenetic relationships of Phthiraptera, Psocodea and Thysanoptera.

We were regaled with accounts of lice on birds — from toucans to Galapagos eagles and assorted doves and pigeons, on mammals—among them domestic stock, the fascinatingly solitary pocket gophers and far less appealing warthog, and, of course, *Homo sapiens*. Thus, we scratched compulsively through accounts of studies on head and body lice, the efficacy of pediculicides, and lice as vectors of diseases. At the end of the meeting, despite the evidence from experimental and molecular studies, we are little wiser about whether '*Pediculus humanus*' on head and body are one species, two separate species or two subspecies, and we have no quick fix for infestations. Some of the co-evolutionary and phylogenetic studies were more persuasive, with the large number of molecular studies highlighting the difficulties inherent in studies on these parasitic insects. Many of the studies outlined were only in preliminary stages.

A feature of the poster session was a competition to identify the lice on the ABRs poster. Prizes were copies of the *Zoological Catalogue of Australia*, Vol.

26, which includes the Phthiraptera section, authored by Ricardo Palma (NZ) and Steve Barker — no extra prize for guessing at least one of the winners! (Those who did not win, can access the checklist on the ABRS website).

Steve Barker with his group at UQ, together with the numerous other contributors, staged a very successful and enjoyable meeting. So successful, that the next such lousy meeting will be held in Argentina in 2006 — you will not have to wait another 30 years for the results of the preliminary papers.

Alice WELLS

Ecology Conference 2002, Cairns.

2 – 6 December 2002.

This conference, the second jointly between the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) and the New Zealand Ecological Society, will be held in Cairns, between the dry and wet seasons (great time for insect collectors!). This is usually an exciting and enjoyable conference and this year looks to continue in that tradition.

There are 18 planned symposia (and several open sessions). I would like to draw attention to a few of the symposia that should be of particular interest to entomologists: frugivory and seed dispersal in Australasia; exotic ant invasions; healthy savanna and grassland landscapes; weed risk assessment and incursions; problems with linear infrastructure corridors; climate change and ecosystems: can we adapt?; making the connections: applying ecological research to management of threatened species/ ecosystems; theory and practice in the study of ecosystem services; and macroecology of the wet tropics rainforests. The conference organisers also put together an annual one-day postgraduate student course that is well worth attending if you are an entomology student with an ecological bent. It is run the day before the conference starts (1st of December this year). Look on the web site for details.

Registration is reasonable, less than \$300 for ESA members and less than \$150 for student and concession members. Non-members will pay \$385 (which means that it's actually cheaper to join the Society and attend as a member — perhaps something the Entomological Society should consider!). Full registration includes the Program and Book of Abstracts, session attendance, all lunches, morning, and afternoon teas, and some social functions. The conference dinner is an extra \$65.

More information and registration forms are available on the ESA conference web site:

<http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/ecology2002/>

Tish SILBERBAUER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia, on Tuesday 24th September 2002 after the day's proceedings of the Scientific Meeting (time to be advised).

The OUTGOING COUNCIL meeting will be held after the day's proceedings on Monday 23rd September and the INCOMING COUNCIL meeting will be held after the day's proceedings on Thursday 26th September 2002 at the Esplanade Hotel.

Nomination of Officers & Regional Councillors

Nominations for election or re-election of Officers and Regional Councillors at the Society's 33rd AGM on Tuesday 24th September 2002 should be made on the form provided and should be sent to the Secretary to arrive no later than Wednesday 14th August 2002.

Officers

The position of President of the Society will fall vacant at the 33rd AGM. The News Bulletin Editor has held office for three annual terms and is eligible for re-election. The Public Officer has held office for one annual term and will be eligible for re-election after her second annual term. All other officers of the Society (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Editor) have held office for two annual terms and are eligible for re-election.

Regional Councillors

Regional Councillors are eligible for re-election for up to three years only. Those who will complete their three year term at the 2002 AGM and/or who need to be replaced are: Kylie Anderson, Brad Scholz, Heather Proctor (Queensland); Geoff Allen (Tasmania); Robert Spooner-Hart, Murray Fletcher (New South Wales); Martin Steinbauer (1 nomination received) (Australian Capital Territory); John Jennings (South Australia); Owain Edwards (Western Australia); Martin Shivas (Northern Territory)

Representative Councillors

Representative Councillors are elected by the affiliated societies. There is no restriction on term served in this capacity. Current councillors are:

E. E. Taylor (Entomological Society of New South Wales);

Judith King (Entomological Society of Queensland);

Ian Endersby (acting) (Entomological Society of Victoria)

Minutes of Executive Committee

MEETING 402 - 29th April 2002

Many subscriptions are still to be paid. Regional Councillors will be asked to contact suspended members (arrears 2001) and members with 2002 arrears in their region to remind them to pay.

New members elected:

Dr Gisela Lamche, Tiwi, NT- interested in aquatic ecology and ecotoxicology; medical entomology.

Ms Nina Kurucz, Nakara, Darwin, NT – interested in mosquitoes, biology/ ecology.

MEETING 403 – 21st May 2002

A. Austin, P. Allen and J. Jennings are working on a preliminary document about strategic planning to be circulated to the Executive and Regional Councillors. There will be a membership drive to coincide with registration for ICE 2004.

New member elected:

Dr Volker Fremenau, Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne, interested in Australian Lycosidae

MEETING 404 – 28th June 2002

The agreement between the Australian Entomological Society and Blackwell Publishing Asia for the publication of *Australian Journal of Entomology* to be in effect from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2003 has been finalised, signed and received. The report on the organisation of 33rd AGM and Scientific Meeting from the convener of the committee, O. Edwards, was well received. Planning is progressing well.

New members elected:

Mrs Hosne Begum, University of Queensland, School of Agriculture and Horticulture, Gatton QLD, Post-graduate student: Hybridization of mulberry silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) for higher silk productivity and disease resistance.

Mr Aaron Simmons, Student, University of Sydney.
Mr David Parlato, Emerald QLD. Interests: Agricultural consultant; insect and disease management in cotton, table grapes, citrus, cucurbits; implementation of IPM programs including *Aphytis linganensis* control of red scale and *Trichogramma* control of *Heliothis*.

DECEASED

Dr Se Pyong Kim.

RESIGNATIONS FEB – JUL 2002

Mr Ted Fenner

Mr Chris Johnston

Dr Laraine Law

Dr Geoff Williams

Dr Alan York

Australian Entomological Supplies Pty. Limited
Monsanto Australia Limited.

MISSING MEMBERS (no address)

Dr Chris Barker

Ms Regina Teo

REGIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AFFA Biosecurity Australia

The entomologists at Biosecurity Australia consist of **Tingkui Qin**, **Alison Roach**, **Robert Duthie**, **Wendy Odgers** (who has returned from maternity leave) and **Wendy Lee**. Wendy is 3 months through a 6 month stint with AQIS Border Programs. We also have **Tara Kaiser** with us on contract from NSW Agriculture - Wagga. Alison continues to work with the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy on the plant side of their overseas program. Main projects are quarantine capacity building for the Indonesian province of Papua (former Irian Jaya). We have just secured new AusAID funding for additional work in this province, including some in conjunction with **Barry Croft** of BSES on sugarcane quarantine.

In late May, **Lyn Cook** and Tingkui hosted a visit by **Kirsti Abbott** at the Australian National University. Kirsti is studying the interaction between scale insects and ants on Christmas Island and would like the scale insects to be identified. Using **Mike Crisp's** lab and **Penny Gullan's** former scale insect lab at ANU, she spent about a week learning slide-mounting techniques and then mounted many of her specimens. Tingkui is trying to identify her specimens.

Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer

Between late March and the end of May, **Ian Naumann** visited most of the major entomological collections in South East Asia as part of an AusAID-funded survey of reference collections and capacity to identify arthropod pests. In all, over 60 institutions in The Philippines, Indonesia, peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak, Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar maintain collections relevant to plant health. In northern Thailand Ian was delighted to meet up again with **Manochai Keeratikorn**, a fellow Ph.D. student at the University of Queensland in the 1970s and now a senior Faculty member at Khon Kaen University. Otherwise Ian continues to lead the Australian Plant Pest Database Program and watch fire ant matters. In early July he will be in South Africa for the 3rd Global Taxonomy Workshop and a GBIF Workshop.

CSIRO Entomology

Paul Wellings, long time Australian Entomological Society member, is leaving Australia for the UK. As of 12 August 2002 Paul will cease employment with CSIRO after 21 years. Paul was Chief of CSIRO Entomology (1995-97), Head of the Science and Innovation Division in the Department of Industry Science and Resources (1997-99) and CSIRO Deputy Chief Executive (1999-2002). In the UK Paul has accepted the appointment to Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University and Professor of Population Ecology.

Jim Cullen, Chief of the Division, is due to retire at the end of the year (so that he can devote more time to the International Congress of Entomology?), and the position of Chief has been announced. See <http://recruitment.csiro.au> for more information.

Richard Milner retired on 28 June 2002 after an illustrious career as an insect pathologist. Richard specialised in *Metarrhizium anisopliae*, and succeeded in turning the green muscardine fungus into a commercial product for control of turf insects, locusts and others.

Robin Bedding has also retired after an outstanding career in CSIRO, working on insect-pathogenic nematodes. Robin worked for many years on the nematodes that control *Sirex* wood wasp, and more recently on nematodes that control a wide variety of insect pests.

Denis Anderson has recently embarked on a new 3-year ACIAR funded project on bees and bee mites in Indonesia and the Philippines as well as a new 3-year RIRDC/GRDC funded project on leafcutter bees. During the last year Denis has presented his work on *Varroa* mites to conferences in South Africa, New Zealand, England and Australia.

In May, **Ray Akhurst** attended the *International Symposium on Molecular Approaches to Improved Crop Productivity and Quality* held in Coimbatore, India. As transgenic cotton will be released officially in the coming season in India, there was keen interest in the issue of resistance. The resistance management plan adopted by the Indian authorities relies heavily on other crops providing refuges. Ray's lead paper *Management of Resistance to Bacillus thuringiensis δ -Endotoxins by Helicoverpa armigera*, which covered the Australian experience, was keenly debated. Ray held discussions with staff of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and other institutions on the potential for collaboration.

Editing of the Proceedings of the *4th Pacific Rim Conference on the Biotechnology of Bacillus thuringiensis and Its Environmental Impact* (Canberra, November 2001) is nearing completion. This is expected to be published in August.

The Stored Grain Research Laboratory (SGRL) was in the news recently with the release of its cost benefit analysis (see story on page 2). **Jane Wright**, **Bruce Halliday**, **David Rees**, **Jan van Graver**, **Jonathan Banks**, **Katarina Mikac**, **YongLin Ren**, **Rashid Qaisrani**, **Jan Viljoen** and **Rainer Reuss** of the SGRL will be travelling to the 8th *International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection* in York, UK in late July. Bruce will be presenting the keynote address in the stored products biology section and YongLin will present the keynote address in fumigation.

Stephen Beckett has been working with Rashid researching the feasibility of using air at high temperatures to disinfest empty grain silos. This is because there is a need to find residue-free ways of ensuring silos are totally free of insects prior to inloading. So far results have been encouraging. They have shown that the most efficient way of heat disinfesting a silo is to heat it up very rapidly to a temperature where complete disinfestation is reached by the time that temperature is reached. By achieving a grain temperature of 62°C in 15 minutes, they have been able to disinfest small parcels of grain infested with *Rhyzopertha dominica* at a range of locations down the shaded side of a 50 tonne silo for an energy cost of less than \$1.

Amongst the activities of the Pest Biology Group in SGRL, **David Rees** *et al.* have been undertaking a trapping survey of the Australian Wheat belt for the warehouse beetle, *Trogoderma variabile*. This pest appears to have been introduced into Australia some 20 years ago. The object of the exercise is to bring our knowledge up to date as to its current distribution as the last systematic survey was done over 10 years ago.

Post-retirement from SGRL, **Jonathan Banks** continues his work with the UN Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee. **Jan van Graver** seems to spend most of his time overseas working for AQIS, training fumigators that perform the fumigations for goods being imported into Australia. **Peter Annis**, who retired last year, says that he's really enjoying being a scientist again. He's been doing a big project for AWB Ltd, modelling the expected consequences of changing the receival moisture limit for wheat, on benefits to growers and extra costs and risks for storers.

David Dall has taken a three-year secondment from CSIRO Entomology to accept the position of General Manager of Pestat Pty Ltd (<http://www.pestat.com.au>), a start-up biotech company associated with the CRC for the Biological Control of Pest Animals. The company is responsible for

commercialisation of the CRC's research outcomes, which involve new vertebrate pest management strategies.

ANIC

Many of the staff at the ANIC found good reasons for avoiding Canberra's winter. **David Yeates** flew to California in June for a meeting with the Schlinger Foundation at Santa Barbara, then on to a conference at UC Berkeley, followed by the stresses of life in Hawaii at the Pacific Biosystematics Meeting. His colleague, **Chris Lambkin**, also attended the conference at Berkeley, but only as part of her circumnavigation of the world, studying collections in Paris and London (Spring in Paris? – what a hard life these taxonomists live), and attending the Tree of Life Conference at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. **John La Salle** and **Nicole Squires** went to Bogor to participate in an ACIAR funded workshop on the control of invasive leaf-miner pests, where they impressed everyone with their new Lucid system and its beautiful illustrations of parasitic Hymenoptera. **Marianne Horak** also enjoyed the northern Spring, attending the European Lepidopterological Society meeting in Denmark. **Steve Shattuck** headed off to Washington for a GBIF meeting, then on to Harvard for discussions concerning the Conservation International Global Ant Database. Finally, having apparently lost his northern hemisphere tolerance of cold weather, **Laurence Mound** drove to Brisbane with **Alice Wells**, photographing galls for a book that is nearing completion on 230 species of thrips that are associated with *Acacia* species. Alice and **David Morris** (who is now based at Illinois Natural History Survey) were attending the second International Phthiraptera Conference, but were happy to spend two days looking for thrips galls on rainforest trees.

Martin J. STEINBAUER
Jane WRIGHT
Regional Councillors

NEW SOUTH WALES

Orange Agricultural Institute

Graham Thwaite attended the Boden Conference on Applied Insect Genomics held at Brisbane in early July. He was one of four NSW Agriculture presenters to paint the "bigger picture" on agricultural pest issues. The Conference, named after the benefactor Dr **Alex Boden** and funded through the Australian Academy of Science, was arranged by the Department of Biochemistry, University of Queensland. In mid July, **Murray Fletcher**, **Peter Gillespie**, **Danuta Knihiniki** and **Graham Thwaite** attended

the NSW Agriculture Horticulture Conference held at Tocal near Maitland NSW. Graham was on the conference organising committee.

Murray Fletcher spent a week working on the leafhopper collections at Bogor Indonesia in June. The trip, which was funded by AFFA, included visits to the Central Research Institute for Food Crops, working with **Sri Suharni Siwi** and the Zoological Museum in Bogor, working with **Lilie Pudjiastuti**, as well as a brief visit to the molecular and plant breeding laboratories in Bogor and the Insect Museum in Jakarta. The CRIFC collection is primarily agricultural while the Bogor Museum also includes the non-pest native species. The Museum collection of planthoppers (Fulgoroidea) was particularly impressive and has clearly had the benefit of work by planthopper specialists such as **Fred Muir** who published extensively on the Fulgoroidea of Indonesia and neighbouring parts of Asia from 1906 to the 1930s. Visitors to OAI have included **Geoff Waite** from the Maroochy Research Station on the Sunshine Coast (a bit of a change of weather in Orange) to sort through leafhopper samples and **Melinda Moir** and **Karl Brennan** from Curtin University in Perth (who actually got to play in the snow in Orange!) to get identifications of some extraordinary leafhopper and planthopper material collected as part of Melinda's PhD project on regenerating bauxite minesites in WA. **Murray Fletcher** (OAI), **Geoff Gurr** (University of Sydney, Orange) and **Leigh Pilkington** (OAI and UoF, Orange) flew to Loxton to assist **Peter Magarey** and **James Altmann** with their investigations into Australian Grapevine Yellows disease. Further details of the trip can be found under the contribution from the University of Sydney, Orange.

University of Sydney, Orange

Geoff Gurr, **Leigh Pilkington** and **Murray Fletcher** (NSW Agriculture) flew to Loxton, South Australia, in late May at the invitation of **Peter Magarey** to help find the natural source of Australian Grapevine Yellows phytoplasma. Peter has worked on AGY for more than 20 years and had developed a number of hypotheses to explain its distribution in local vineyards. The visit was used to test these hypotheses and the results of the visit, which will be provided in a joint presentation at the AES conference in Perth, provide strong support for Peter's hypotheses. **James Altmann** was able to join the team for one day in the field. The opportunity was also taken to look at South Australian lucerne plants showing symptoms of Australian Lucerne Yellows phytoplasma, on which Leigh has been doing his PhD. The trip was quite an adventure for the trio from Orange because the most effi-



Intrepid travellers Leigh Pilkington, Geoff Gurr and Murray Fletcher
with their host Peter Magarey and the Piper



James Altmann, Murray Fletcher & Geoff Gurr chasing leafhoppers in Loxton vineyards



Grant Herron, Graham Thwaite and Emma Cottage considering insect genomics?



Paul de Barro, Dave Kelly, Lewis Wilson, Robin Gunning and Emma Cottage with whiteflies on cotton at Emerald

cient method of getting to Loxton from Orange was by chartering a four-seater Piper Seminole for the three hour flight direct to Loxton rather than going the long way around through Sydney and Adelaide using commercial flights.

A fond farewell and sendoff was given to **Zamir Hossain** on 5 July after he decided to join **Bob Spooner-Hart** and **Andrew Beattie's** group at the University of Western Sydney at Richmond. Zamir will be continuing his work on non-synthetic pesticide management of insects in field and pasture crops, a field in which he has established his name in history as being the first PhD student completion at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Rural Management in Orange. Zamir's broad smile and scientific ability will be missed in Orange.

A new addition to the team is **Lynn Fletcher** from Cornell University. Lynn is spending five months here looking at spittingfires (Hymenoptera: Symphyta) in their native habitat, concentrating on their social behaviour and communication as well as aspects of herbivory.

School of Physics, The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra

For a period over summer 2001/02, neither of the School's Insect Monitoring Radars (at Bourke, NSW and Thargomindah, Qld) were operating, a 30-year-old key component of the Bourke unit having finally failed after over three years of almost continuous operation. By March, however, thanks to maintenance visits and workshop repair efforts by various School staff and research students, both IMRs were working again. Also over the summer, PhD student **Tim Dean** completed development of the School's mobile IMR and calibrated it with help from the Belconnen Model Aero Club who skillfully towed standard targets through the beam for us. Tim then took the mobile unit to the Bourke-Thargomindah region to make observations at a series of locations between the two IMRs. The main aim of this exercise, apart from providing Tim with the final dataset for his thesis, was to determine how far out from an IMR the migration parameters estimated from the! IMR's observation data remain applicable. So, for a few days in April, three entomological radars were running simultaneously in Australia - a record! Tim has also been preparing conference posters and papers, using data from his field trip. His efforts were rewarded when he won the student poster prize at the Australian Institute of Physics annual conference in July. **Haikou Wang** has been busy drafting his thesis and running four years of data through his refined version of the analysis software. **Ian Harman** departed the School in May

to take up a position at ANU developing (non-entomological!) equipment for Antarctica. From May-July, **Alistair Drake's** long-time collaborator Prof. **Bao-Ping Zhai** (Nanjing Agricultural University, China) was in Canberra, spending time both in the School and at the Australian Plague Locust Commission. The visit enabled some firming up of Alistair's and Bao-ping's plans for operating an IMR in China.

Murray FLETCHER
Regional Councillor

Tamworth Centre for Crop Improvement

Welcome to new entomologists **Chris Carr** and **Emma Cottage**. Chris has joined Adrian Nicholas as Technical Officer in the field crops programme. Chris is a graduate from the University of Tasmania. Emma, who recently completed her PhD at the University of New England, has taken up a postdoctoral position with **Robin Gunning** and **Grant Herron** working on aphid resistance mechanisms.

Of the existing staff, **John Hosking** and **Royce Hotkamp** continue to do excellent work in the weed biological control programme. Robin Gunning continues to be very busy coping with insecticide resistance in cotton, what with the explosion of Silverleaf Whitefly on cotton in Queensland this year, there is never a dull moment! Scientific visitors to Robin's laboratory have been **Susan Young** from Imperial College, and **Graham Moores** from ICAR-Rothamsted. Robin and Emma also attended an international symposium on cholinergic mechanisms in April at St Moritz in Switzerland, where they discovered the delights of alpine blizzards.

Elizabeth Macarthur Institute, Camden

Grant Herron and **Garry Levot** continue to be very busy in their insecticide resistance research endeavours. Grant has been very busy with insecticide resistance problems in cotton aphids and mites. Recently Grant Herron and Robin Gunning (from Tamworth), were star attractions in the cotton industry's annual resistance "flying circus", where they flew round the country-side in small planes speaking to meetings of cotton growers all over NSW and Qld.

Australian Cotton Research Institute, Narrabri

Ho Dang has recently been appointed to a professional entomologist position with NSW Agriculture. Ho is working on integrated pest management on cotton with **Robert Mensa**.

Whitefly Tourism at Emerald

A motley crowd of cotton entomologists travelled to Emerald on small planes to experience up close, the

explosion of the silverleaf whitefly on cotton. They included **Garry Fitt, Neil Forrester, Lewis Wilson, Bernie Franzmann, Paul de Barro, Emma Cottage** and **Robin Gunning**.

Applied Genomics of Insect Pests of Agriculture

A number of entomologists gathered in Brisbane 4-6 June with some molecular biologists to discuss potential collaboration on the subject of insect genomics. The meeting was organised by **Paul Ebert** of the University of Queensland. Entomologists present were, **Pat Collins, Dave Murray, Graham Thwaite, Geoff Waite, Dave Merrit, Grant Herron, Emma Cottage, Hugh Brier, Greg Daglish, Steve Whyard, Peter Campbell** and **Robin Gunning**.

Robin GUNNING
Regional Councillor

UNSW, CERIT

Things have been moving along at a steady pace at CERIT but that is about to change up a gear as preparations for our annual Symposium get to the final stages. As a result of **Chris Orton's** involvement in a strategy planning day for the PSITAB NSW Pest Management Sector Committee, the topic for the Symposium will be '*Assessing and Managing Risk in Urban Pest Management in Australia – 2002*'. It will be held on Thursday 3 October at UNSW Kensington campus. If you are interested in attending and have not received an information package by early September, please contact CERIT (cerit@unsw.edu.au) and we will send one to you.

We have a staff change coming up. After 12 years at CERIT, **Julie-ann Short** has decided it is time to take a break from being a commuting, working mum and leave our hallowed halls. We wish her well for her future endeavors and will be sad to see her go. In the short term, **Patrick O'Rourke** and **Merilyn Baker** will share her duties, which have included mosquito and American cockroach culturing, participation in CERIT's 'New Actives Screening' and 'Product R&D' programs and responsibility for several aspects of our annual Industry Briefing Symposium.

Recent 'excursions' by **Chris Orton** have included delivering a guest lecture on *Insect adulteration of food* to final year UNSW Food Science students, attending the Pestech Pest Control Conference in Sydney, the National Termite Workshop (Univ of Melbourne and CRC Wood Innovation) in Melbourne and a talk by **Peter Bates** (Veterinary Laboratories Agency Weybridge, UK) hosted by **Garry Levot** at EMAI, on *Sheep ectoparasites – the European perspective*.

None of us can completely avoid the 'P' word and organisational Politics probably is the most disruptive kind! Here at CERIT we have had more than our share in the past few months as we 'build new bridges' and prepare to have administrative responsibility for the centre transferred to a new School, in a new Faculty, with a new Dean. Shortly we will be part of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES) in the recently amalgamated (single) Faculty of Science, under Dean Dennis Lincoln. We are already growing weary of comments like "shouldn't it be *hive* of BEES" and "you'll all have to *BEE-hive* yourselves now" – sigh!

Chris Orton recently enjoyed a much needed one-week break in New Caledonia. Before leaving he completed the final draft of an Outcomes Summary Document for PSITAB NSW: '*Training Pathways for a Timber Pest Management Professional*' which recently was endorsed for general distribution. If you are in the business of urban or commercial pest management you may have participated already in the events which led to the document and hence be on the mailout list to receive it. Otherwise please contact CERIT if you would like a copy. Also recently completed and available for distribution by CERIT is the PSITAB document: '*Introducing the Pest Management Industry Sector Committee*'.

Sarah Lunau (CERIT staff member on Maternity leave) visited recently with (a growing well) Imogen before relocating to Germany and Italy for 6 months while her husband carries out work on his research project. Lucky or what!!

Other recent visitors to CERIT have included: **Roger Sargent** and **Andrew Smith** (Schering-Plough Animal Health), **Pam Berriman** (Relapak), **Chris Virgona** (Starpharma) and **Phil Morrow** and **Jyri Kaapro** of Aventis (now Bayer).

Julie-ann SHORT
Chris ORTON

University of Western Sydney

Andrew Beattie has continued on his jetsetting way, in April participating in the Australian Citrus Growers 54th Annual Conference in Darwin, followed by a visit to China later in the month, and then Vietnam in April-May. He also gave a presentation at the Citrus Nursery Workshop in Mildura. Goes to show you can go a long way on a litre of oil!

Robert Spooner-Hart participated in the first World Conference on organic olive production in Jaen, Spain in June, and inspected mass trapping programs for olive fly *Bactrocera oleae* in Andalusian groves.

We are pleased to welcome 2 new PhD students commencing their studies in 2002. They are **Melissa**

Bell (investigating the blue-banded bee, *Amegilla holmesi* a potential pollinator of glasshouse solanaceous crops): and **Mary Cannard** (investigating aspects of biology and ecology of golden mealy bug, *Nipaecoccus aurilanatus*).

NSW Society

A new council was elected at the March Annual General meeting. They are President Oleg Nicetic, Vice President Alan Westcott, Secretary Tanya James, Treasurer Ted Taylor, Business Manager Gith Strid, Public Officer Mary Ann Terras, Journal Editor (Taxonomy) Dan Bickel, Journal Editor (Applied) Garry Levot and Circular Editor Mary Cannard. Councillors for 2002 are Graham Clancy, Graham Goodyer, Dinah Hales, Martin Horwood, Barbara May and Robert Spooner-Hart. The Society has moved its regular meeting location to the Council community hall in Telopea (Dundas).

Beneficial Bugs

Andy Ryland, manager of Beneficial Bugs is taking a well deserved winter vacation in July (the only time he really can), so the company has flown in the expertise of its co-owner, **James Altman** for a week, followed by the other co-owner, **Dan Papacek** the following week (who will probably fly his plane directly into the RAAF base). We hope Andy returns back refreshed and ready for the spring rush.

Robert SPOONER-HART
Regional Councillor

QUEENSLAND – NORTH

James Cook University

Rudy Kohout and **Simon Robson** visited **Alan Anderson** at CSIRO Darwin, while on a hunt for *Polyrhachis* ants in the Northern Territory. Simon is currently at the 9th Behavioral Ecology Meeting in Montreal Canada, where he ran into a past local, **Daryl Kemp** (now in Arizona). At the end of the month half of the Australian Social insect people are heading off to Sapporo for the IUSSI Meetings (Simon Robson, **Ross & Ching Crozier**, **Mike Henshaw**, **Rebecca Johnson** and **Angie Sheutrim**).

QDPI – Entomology

Northwatch and DPI Plant Health staff have been busy with survey activities in the Cape York area, including Coen, Lockhart, Moreton, Weipa and numerous stations in between. No exotics were detected. **Jane Royer** accompanied the NAQS team on a general plant health survey in the Daintree region. Jane and **Roger Winton** recently surveyed a selection of north

Queensland islands, courtesy of the lovely new AQIS launch *AQV Wodyetia*. AQIS personnel were discussing quarantine information and public awareness with island staff. Dunk and Hinchinbrook Islands are regular stopoff points for international yachts, and are accordingly considered high risk. Again, no unusual pests were detected.

Cairns declared the all clear from crazy ants at the end of June. The last ants were trapped in October last year, with the original infested area and surrounds being regularly surveyed since. Eradication was achieved by a joint government approach including staff from Natural Resources and Mines, Primary Industries, Environmental Protection Agency, AQIS and the Cairns City Council, who recently received an award for their part in the eradication. YAY!

The 3rd International Canopy Conference was held in late June in Cairns. Researchers specialising in the canopy ecosystem attended from various countries. The conference was organised jointly by the Qld Premiers Department and the Smithsonian Institute in the USA. Several sessions concentrated on arthropods though insect related papers were presented in other sessions as well. Many Australian entomologists attended plus others from overseas. Attendees included **Simon Grove** from Forestry Tasmania. Simon recently completed his PhD on saproxylic insects at James Cook University in Cairns, and was happy to return to his old stamping ground - and the warmer weather!

Richard Ring from the University of Victoria, Canada also attended. Richard heads a team that has been studying canopy invertebrates in wet coniferous forests of British Columbia since 1992. He visited one of his former undergraduate students, **Ross Storey** of the Qld DPI in Mareeba. In addition to examining the DPI's insect collection he added a few bird sightings to his Aussie checklist.

NAQS – Mareeba

Judy Grimshaw and **Barbara Waterhouse** completed a routine plant health survey of selected Torres Strait islands in May. **Marjorie Kame** from NAQIA in PNG joined the team. Her presence on the team was extremely beneficial for NAQS, especially during a school presentation where she was a huge inspirational force for the local kids. On a more serious note, **Kylie Anderson** dressed as a red-banded mango caterpillar, stood on the back of a pick-up truck and threw lollies at small children! The Centre for Tropical Agriculture (the base for NAQS in Mareeba) entered a float in the annual Mareeba Rodeo street parade. Each group represented at the Centre (DPI, DNRM, EPA, various Catchment Management Groups

and AQIS) had a character on the back of a multi-themed and decorated pick-up truck. There were water drops, koalas, bats, woody weeds, avocados and of course, a red-banded mango caterpillar! **Kerrie Huxham**, among other things, was busy preparing a manuscript for inclusion in the Proceedings of the recent International Fruitfly Symposium in Stellenbosch.

Kylie ANDERSON
Regional Councillor

QUEENSLAND – SOUTH

Geoff Waite visited Orange in early June to enlist the assistance of **Murray Fletcher** in the identification of leafhoppers in relation to vectors of the phytoplasma disease, strawberry lethal yellows. While there he discussed the disease situation with Murray, **Geoff Gurr** and **Leigh Pilkington** as all have a mutual interest in the same organism and its vector as it causes problems in lucerne and grapes. Geoff also discussed mite issues with **John McDonald** and **Danuta Knihinicki**.

Dan Smith and **Dan Papacek** have assisted Environment Australia to redress the damage caused to *Pisonia* forests by *Pulvinaria urticae* on several coral cays in the Coral Sea. Several parasitoids and *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* have been introduced with excellent results. The next phase of the project will address the defoliation that is caused by a couple of hawk moths.

Brad SCHOLZ
Regional Councillor

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SARDI Entomology

Despite a lack of reports in recent issues of *Myrmecia*, the SARDI Entomology Unit is still alive and well. Over the last 12 months, **Gabriella Caon** and **Greg Baker** have been providing pest management advice for tomato crops grown in the Greenhouse Modernisation Project at Virginia on the northern Adelaide Plains. Two successive crops were successfully steered through to harvest without the need for any insecticide treatments. **Megan Leyson**, an Adelaide Crop Protection graduate, replaced **Suzanne Charwat** on the snail project in November 2001. Megan and **Dennis Hopkins** have renegotiated this project with GRDC and it is now due to run through to 2005. Megan, **Kerrin Bell** and **Nathan Luke** are pleased to see that the sarcophagid snail parasite has established at several sites and its rate of spread and impact will be monitored over the next few years. **Ross Stanger** has switched his interests from bio-

logical control of Patterson's Curse to surveying SA for fire ants. Over recent months, Ross has spent many hours in transport depots, nurseries, on wharves, etc and is pleased to report that no fire ants have been recorded. **Ken Henry** is back working with his beloved dung beetles. Ken is working with the Fleurieu Beef Group which has secured funding for three years from Adelaide Hills Catchment Board and the EPA's Water Quality Group to introduce two new species of autumn and winter active dung beetles to complement the summer active species already widely established. His contract with the group is to provide advice on biology, release and surveying procedures. The first colonies of *Geoptripes spiniger* (autumn active) collected from the NSW table lands arrived in early January and were released near Myponga and more recently *Bubas bison* has been released on Kangaroo Island.

Since **Peter Bailey's** retirement, Dennis Hopkins has been "roped" into fruit fly work and together with **Cathy Smallridge** is using Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) against fruit fly outbreaks in Adelaide. After a fairly quiet and uneventful summer, all hell broke out in autumn with four late season outbreaks; two medfly and two Qfly. Many millions of steriles are being released and the final outcomes of these programs will become evident in spring.

Greg Baker, **Nancy Schellhorn** and **Dijana Jevremov** have been busy in the national program against DBM. Currently they are planning to host the annual DBM Project Meeting in Adelaide in early August. This will involve about 25 research and extension staff from each of the states. Over the last six months, **Tony Shelton** from Cornell University and **David Andow** from University of Minnesota have visited Adelaide and made inputs into this program.

Glenys Wood has completed another summer of work on European wasp in collaboration with Aventis. A full patent has been taken out by SARDI on the bait dispenser and it is hoped that a baiting technique for wasps will be commercially available in some form (initially probably under permit) in Adelaide for "wasp season" during the summer of 2002/2003. **Tony Burfield** has just completed a 20-month study on western flower thrips in the vegetable growing area at Virginia on the northern Adelaide Plains. Tony has facilitated an area wide approach to the management of WFT and generally growers are now much better placed to cope with this pest. **Angela Lush** and **Bill Kimber** are continuing their studies on the small brown snail in citrus and Angela is now enrolled at the University of Adelaide for a PhD on this snail.

Peter Taverner, **Nancy Cunningham** and **Kevin Powis** are continuing their post harvest work in cit-

rus and Greg Baker, **Sheridan Purvis** and **Darryl Jackman** are working on developing and assessing various control options for Kelly's citrus thrips.

University of Adelaide

Muhammad Iqbal and **John Jennings** are attending the 5th International Society of Hymenopterists conference in Beijing in 22-26 July. Iqbal will present a paper entitled "Diversity and evolution of Australasian doryctine wasps". John will present a paper entitled "Systematics and distribution of world hyptiogastrine wasps (Hymenoptera: Gasteruptionidae)". Iqbal and John will also conduct a demonstration of the Lucid key to Australian Hymenoptera families.

The most notable news from **Mike Keller's** group is that **Gitta Siekmann** and **Jeanine Baker** were both awarded their Ph.D. degrees. Jeanine is now working as a postdoc in the CRC for Australian Weed Management where she is working on the potential spread of genes from transgenic crops into weeds. Gitta has returned to Germany and she is working for the Federal Research Institute of Agriculture and Forestry on the effects of mulches on aphid infestations.

Catherine Paul has commenced a PhD project on "Beneficial arthropods in Coonawarra vineyards and sustainable grape production". Basically the aims are to document the diversity and abundance of arthropods the Coonawarra vineyard system; determine which species of predators and parasitoids are the main mortality agents for light brown apple moth; determine the ecological requirements of the key beneficials; and investigate the influence of current management practices and how these might be modified to increase the abundance of key predators and parasitoids. This research is supported by a scholarship that is funded partly by an Australian Postgraduate Award and the Coonawarra Grape Growers Association. Cate's supervisors are **Andy Austin** and **Nancy Schellhorn**.

Tim Moulds has commenced a PhD project on "The ecology of the guanophilic invertebrate community of bat cave, Naracoorte, South Australia". The aims of this project are to investigate the effects of seasonality on the guanophilic invertebrates; to develop a food-web; to determine the relationships of the guanophilic invertebrates to surface and entrance invertebrates; and to develop a conservation plan for the invertebrate community and large bentwing bats (*Miniopterus s. bassianii*). This research is supported by an ARC linkage project with National Parks and Wildlife, South Australia. His supervisors are **Andy Austin** and **John Jennings**.

Fraser Vickery has commenced a PhD project on "The effect of fire on narrow leaf mallee (*Eucalyptus*

cneorifolia) ecosystems on Kangaroo Island using ants as bio-indicators and the role of ants in ecosystem recovery after fire events". Fraser's supervisors are **Sandra Taylor** (Dept. Geographical & Environmental Studies) and **John Jennings**.

Insects proved a popular draw card one wet, stormy night. Over 40 children (5-12 years) from the Junior Field Naturalists Society of Blackwood, and their parents, were enthralled by case-moths, giant spiny leaf insects, hungry mantids, beetles, bugs and hissing cockroaches. **Claire Stephens** and **Nick Stevens** were invited by the society to their May meeting to present "Six Legged Science"; an insight into all things entomological. Children showed no apprehension in handling live insects and were very keen to learn all they could. Claire and Nick were overwhelmed and greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of insects displayed by the audience. The positive experience really brought home the fact that the public are very interested and receptive in learning more about insects and that we, entomologists, can do simple, fun things, such as public presentations, to promote our field of science.

John JENNINGS
Regional Councillor

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania

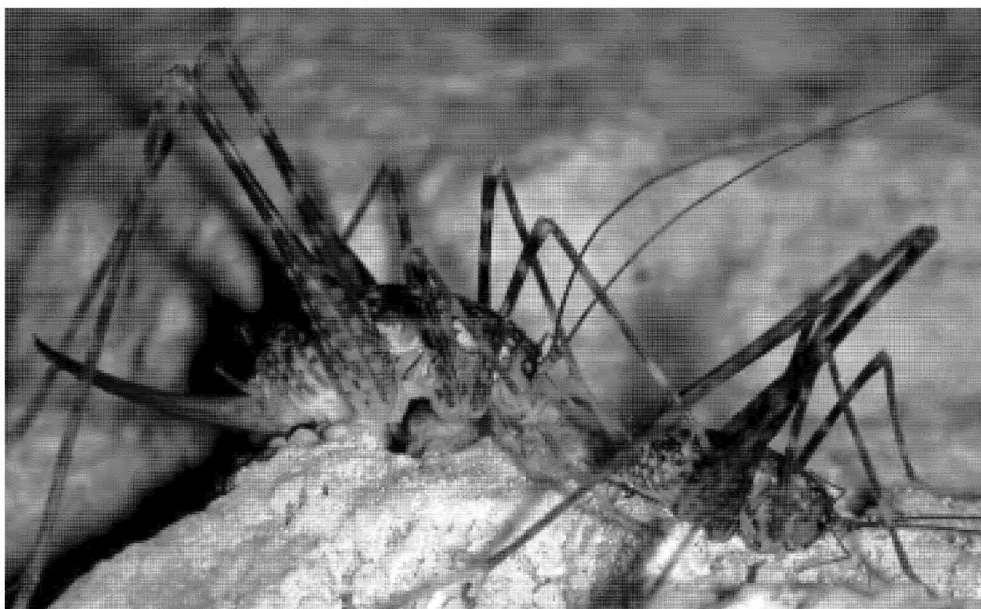
School of Ag. Science

CRC for Sustainable Production Forestry

CRC activity has in May centred around the submission of the new CRC forestry bid, that eventually saw a merger between northern and southern forestry groups and the submission of a Brisbane based CRC for Tree Technologies. The major entomology components will be based in Hobart and Brisbane and are to centre around infochemicals. June/July has seen much effort put into the preparation of the 5-year review documents and an early deadline for the annual report and now at last we can get back to science. **Alan York** (Forest Science Centre, University of Melbourne) made a brief trip to Tasmania visiting Forestry Tasmania and the University where he discussed some of his work on characterising invertebrate communities in relation to historical and environmental variables. A new PhD student, **Ann Gaffney**, has started in the School of Agricultural Science, who had previously finished honours with Alfie Meats at the University of Sydney on fruit flies. She is to begin a project on pollinators of vegetable seed crops with **Geoff Allen** and **Phil Brown** (horticulture).



Claire Stephens and Nick Stevens with a group of junior field naturalists



Female and male Naracoorte cave crickets (*Novotettix naracoortensis* Richards),
Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Area, South Australia

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE)

Owen Seeman has recently finished a project that asked the public to send in weevils for identification. Though I do not yet know the outcome, the project was rounded off by several 'weevils in the pub' sessions around the state that attracted a fair smattering of advance bookings and no doubt some 'curiosity' from the regulars on the night. However, I am yet to see any of the obligatory media snap shots of weevils being held up by a 'bug boffin'.

Geoff R. ALLEN
Regional Councillor

VICTORIA

Institute of Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Alex Il'ichev has just returned from a trip to the USA, Canada and Sweden. He visited **Doug Light** from USDA to look at a new pear ester based attractant for codling moth. Alex also visited **Larry Gut** and **Mark Whalon** at Michigan State University. While in Michigan, Alex presented a lecture for the international IPM course run by Michigan State University. **David Williams** and **Mofakhar Hossain** are currently in Brisbane at the Snack Fruit conference to discuss *Carpophilus* beetle amongst other topics. Meanwhile, **Cathy Mansfield** has developed a new project to look at *Helicoverpa* species migration and resistance northern Victorian fresh tomato crops.

Institute for Horticultural Development, Natural Resources and Environment

Peter Ridland, **Wendy Morgan** and **Mali Malipatil** visited Bogor, Indonesia during 2-8 June 2000. This was to participate in the workshop on ACIAR sponsored *Liriomyza* leaf-miner project with a view to review all aspects of work that has been undertaken over the last year. All members of the project team from Australia and from different parts of Indonesia participated. Mali and **Purnama Hadayat** (Bogor Agricultural University (IPB)) covered the taxonomy of the major pest species of *Liriomyza*, and **John LaSalle** and **Nicole Squires** (CSIRO, Entomology) and **Rosichon Ubaidillah** (Musei Zoologicum Bogoriense (LIPI)) covered the taxonomy of the parasitoids. They demonstrated the LUCID keys that are currently being developed for both these groups, and attempted to identify the specimens of both flies and parasitoids collected from various localities in Indonesia brought in by the participants.

Cathy MANSFIELD

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Owain Edwards, **Jonathan Majer**, **Terry Houston**, and **Debbie Thackray** are busily preparing as the organising committee for the upcoming 33rd AES AGM and Scientific Conference in Fremantle 22-27 September.

Curtin University of Technology

Department of Environmental Biology

Karl Brennan and **Erich Volschenk** are rejoicing over recently submitting their PhD theses. **Nihara Gunawardene** has completed her Postgraduate Diploma studies on ant communities in coastal woodlands. Nihara obviously enjoyed working with the group, since her MSc project will involve studying the ants of the Carnarvon Range in remote central Western Australia. **Brian Heterick** is updating the Curtin University Ant Collection, and bringing it into line with the new standards recently introduced by Environment Australia. For his Postgraduate Diploma, **Kyung Soo Kung**, from South Korea, is researching assemblages of Carabidae in and around Perth as part of the GLOBENET program. Hopefully we will find that our ground beetles have not been totally decimated by European occupation!

CSIRO Entomology

Ben Warton has moved on from his postdoc with **John Matthiessen** and has recently started a research fellowship at Curtin University. John Matthiessen is traveling to Basel, Switzerland for the 10th International IUPAC Congress on Pesticide Chemistry and will also be visiting collaborators at North Carolina State University on the way back. **Tim Woodburn** has returned to Canberra, retiring from CSIRO Entomology where he will be sorely missed. **John Scott** will be returning to Perth in July from his stint at the CSIRO Entomology European Laboratory in Montpellier, France. **Kathryn Batchelor** recently released the third agent for biological control of bridal creeper (*Crioceris* spp.), which should only add to the already outstanding success of this program. **Owain Edwards** and **James Ridsdill-Smith** are preparing for the arrival of three new postdocs hired as part of the new \$20M research agreement between CSIRO and GRDC, which was signed in the last month.

NAQS Entomology

Tony Postle reports from Broome that a busy field schedule in the first half of the year has resulted in surveys to Kununurra and surrounds and the Bonaparte and Buccaneer Archipelagos. Identifica-

tions are incomplete but so far, no exotic species have been detected. There was a plethora of scale insects, pselaphids, chrysomelids, and mosquitoes.

WA Museum

With the onset of autumn rains in April, **Terry Houston** commenced a busy program pursuing specimens of sandgropers (Orthoptera: Cyllindrachetidae) with the aim of elucidating the basic biology of these subterranean insects. An appeal to the public to hand in any specimens found was made via radio and newspapers and resulted in a flood of calls that mainly concerned mole crickets. Surprisingly, the exercise revealed some species of mole crickets from the Perth metropolitan area that were not represented in the Museum collection and which cannot be identified from the most recent revision. Moves are underway to determine if these are native species previously overlooked or exotics.

A field trip to the Murchison and Gascoyne regions in June and July revealed how dependent the sandgropers are on rainfall for their surface activities. Terry and a volunteer, **Otto Mueller**, had a fruitless week attempting to rediscover some poorly collected species by spadework in an area that had received no rain for over two weeks. On moving south into an area that had just received 8 mm of rain overnight they had immediate success locating specimens in fresh surface trails.

Owain EDWARDS
Regional Councillor

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Marjorie Kame from NAQIA (Port Moresby) participated in the Plant Health Survey of Torres Strait Island from May 18-31. The other participants in the survey were **Judith Grimshaw** (Entomology); **Barbara Waterhouse** (Botany) and **Mark Whattam** (Plant Pathology).

Lastus Kuniata of Ramu Sugar Ltd (PNG) participated in a survey of the sugarcane pests and diseases in Indonesia. The survey, from 30th May to 11th June, covered the islands of Sumba, Flores, Sumbawa Besa, Lombok and Bali. The survey is one of four funded by ACIAR to look at pests and diseases affecting the *Sacharum* germ-plasm, and identify those that are of quarantine significance to Indonesia, PNG and Australia. The participants involved in the survey were: **B. Croft** and **K. Chandler** (BSES, Australia), **L. Putri** and **D. Pramono** (Indonesia) and **L. Kuniata** (PNG).

Dick Drew and **Tony Clark** of Brisbane made a periodic visit to PNG in connection with the fruitfly project.

They called on **Mark Ero**, Assistant Curator, National Collection, Kilakila. Mark will be visiting Brisbane to work with **Geoff Monteith** in the Queensland Museum later in the year.

This will be my last report to *Myrmecia*, as I am leaving PNG after 12 years entomological work here. Future reports from PNG will come from **Lastus Kuniata**, Senior Agronomist, Ramu Sugar Ltd. Lastus holds a Ph.D degree in Entomology from the University of Queensland, and was the first person to acquire a Ph.D in Entomology from PNG.

Ray KUMAR

OBITUARY

William Nigel Balcombe Quick

6 June 1928 - 4 April 2002

Nigel Quick was born at Melbourne and grew up in the inner suburb of Toorak. He was the only child of Hilary and William Balcombe Quick, an honorary surgeon and head of the Alfred Hospital Board at Melbourne. Nige was the great great grandson of Lieutenant Colonel William Balcombe, Napoleon's jailer on St Helena, and the East India Company Representative charged with provisioning the Company's ships. William Balcombe's house on St Helena was called 'The Briars'; and he had Napoleon living with his family while a separate house was being prepared. In approximately 1822, William Balcombe emigrated from the United Kingdom to Australia and was appointed First Colonial Treasurer to the colony of New South Wales. His son, Alexander Balcombe, acquired a property near the present day Mornington, Vic, and called it the Briars. Alexander's son was William Balcombe, Nigel's grandfather.

Nige was educated at Melbourne Grammar School, and began collecting and studying insects, particularly butterflies, during his teens. Subsequently he made contact with the newly appointed curator of Entomology at the National Museum of Victoria, Alex Noble Burns. Through this association he met four other 'youngsters' interested in entomology: Charles McCubbin, David Franklin Crosby, Rodney Jackson, and John Landy of athletic fame. The five quickly became good friends and went on collecting trips together. Through the museum and its connections they also met three experienced amateur entomologists: John Cecil ('Zoo') Le Souëf, Francis Erasmus ('Ras') Wilson and Marwood William (Bill) Mules. These men and Alex provided much early encouragement, guidance and local knowledge of the fauna of the Melbourne environment.

Nige went on to study science at Melbourne University in 1947 - 48. However, before completing his

Degree he joined the engineering firm McPhersons, where he worked for eight years acquiring an exceptional knowledge of tools and their use. During this period he purchased an Austin 7, and joined the Austin 7 Club. He was involved in hill climbs at Rob Roy and held a trials licence. He went from Austin 7's to Triumph motorbikes and then bought one of the early Morris Minors. As a result of Nige's early involvement with sports cars he acquired an extraordinary knowledge of car engines and mechanics, these skills being put to good use on field trips. Nige, often accompanied by Charles, travelled far and wide throughout the State to collect butterflies and other insects, fish and plants, making trips to the poorly surveyed areas of the north-west (Big and Little Deserts) and far east (East Gippsland).

Around 1956, Nige set up a plant nursery, 'Dargon Hill'; on an elevated site on the outer edge of Glen Waverley, specialising in native plants that he grew from seed and cuttings collected on field trips. Most of the plant material came from Victoria, but in the first year of the business he made an extended trip to WA specifically to collect samples of the rich endemic flora. Nige was a pioneer in the propagation and selling of native plants; no other nurseries in the Melbourne suburbs selling native plants at that time. In 1960 he married Gwenda Margaret Gerraty, and they built a house at the nursery, subsequently producing a son and daughter. During the 1970's they sold part of their land and opened a shop 'Gem Minerals in Syndal'. This reflected a long interest Nige had in gemstones and minerals.

Nige joined the Entomological Society of Victoria when it was reformed in 1961, and was Vice-President from 1973 to 1976. Over 28 years he published 51 articles, totalling 134 pages, in the *Victorian Entomologist*, also three papers in the *Victorian Naturalist*, *Queensland Naturalist* and *Australian Journal of Entomology*. Most dealt with the natural history of butterflies, novel methods of setting, preserving and rearing specimens, and technical aspects of the ENTRECS scheme, a computerised distribution database that he pioneered in the mid-1970's, but others with species protection and conservation; one interesting article deals with the stag beetle, *Phalacrognathus muelleri*. In 1979, he was made an honorary member of the Entomological Society of Victoria in recognition of his pioneering work on ENTRECS, but he later resigned from the Society and contributed very few articles after 1985.

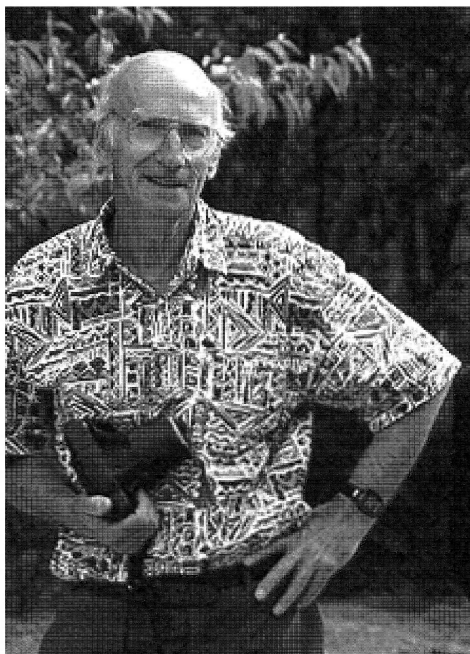
His most important contributions were studies on the life history of a number of butterflies. He studied and reared many species from Victoria and northern Queensland, and accumulated a substantial amount

of data on geographic distribution, larval food plant and ant associations. Some of this data was incorporated in *Australian Butterflies* (McCubbin 1971), *Butterflies of Australia* (Common and Waterhouse 1972, 1981), and *Butterflies of Australia: their Identification, Biology and Distribution* (Braby 2000). He was the first to discover the life histories of the rare lycaenids *Philiris diana diana* and *Candalides consimilis goodingi*. His knowledge and captive rearing of a colony of the locally endangered *Acrodipsas myrmecophila* from Ocean Grove in his garden at Glen Waverley in the 1960's was legendary. Nige described the subspecies *Ogyris oroetes apiculata* Quick, 1972 from southern Australia, produced in 1972 a checklist of the Australian butterfly fauna, compiled a seminal report on butterfly dispersal during the 1973-74 flight season, and contributed greatly to a co-authored paper on the use of common names. Perhaps his most significant publication was the production, in collaboration with Paul Gullan, David Crosby and Museum Victoria, of a CD-ROM on the butterflies of Victoria. Published in 1996 and copiously illustrated with photographs and databased plot maps, this summarised a vast amount of information on the 119 species then recognised in Victoria. He had planned to produce a book on Victorian butterflies, similar to that of Fisher's (1978) *Butterflies of South Australia*, but sadly this dream was never realised.

In 1980, following serious complications arising from a medical operation, Nige and Gwen sold their gemstone business in Victoria so that they could retire to Queensland. They settled first at Cairns then at Kuranda. However, in 1983 the oppressive heat and humidity forced them to return to Victoria. He died at Bunyip quite suddenly at the age of 73 soon after being diagnosed with cancer.

Nige was courteous, respectful and eloquent with a witty sense of humour. He was a thorough gentleman, although at times temperamental. He had a wide interest in natural history, including botany, geology, ornithology and the ecological associations between animals and plants. He corresponded frequently with other entomologists, assisted colleagues, students and newcomers to the field, and was very generous and helpful in passing on his knowledge, particularly in his later years. A proficient photographer, he was also an excellent draughtsman and a competent wildlife artist. He painted quite a few transparent watercolour paintings of insects, also some landscapes in oil.

In 1987, 4,023 specimens of Australian butterflies were incorporated with the D.F. Crosby collection and donated to the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. This collection includes much important



Nigel Quick, Victoria, December 1997

historical material from areas where populations of many species are no longer extant, especially in Victoria. The fate of his private collection has yet to be determined, comprising about 40 cabinet drawers and 15 store-boxes, representing a diverse array of temperate and tropical butterflies, macro moths, cicadas and jewel beetles.

Michael BRABY
Charles McCUBBIN

MEETINGS

5th International Congress of Dipterology

September 30 – October 5, 2002

University of Queensland, Brisbane

The International Congress of Dipterology will bring together 300 researchers from a broad range of disciplines to discuss the latest research on Diptera (true flies). The Program will be designed to provide a unique environment in which to discuss current re-

search. Themes will include: Morphology, Physiology and Ultrastructure; Biodiversity and Conservation; Agricultural Diptera; Behaviour and Ecology; Medical, Veterinary and Forensic Diptera; Systematics and Phylogeny; Genetics and Genomics; Collections and Databases

Please see our web site at <http://www.uq.edu.au/entomology/dipterol/diptconf.html>

ICD5 Congress Secretariat, Conference Connections, PO Box 108, Kenmore, Queensland, Australia 4069; Fax (61 7) 3201 2809; email <sally.brown@uq.net.au>

International Symposium on Exotic Pests and their Control (ISEPC)

Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China

November 17 to 20, 2002

Secretary General: Prof. Runjie Zhang

The State Key Lab for Biocontrol / Institute of Entomology

Zhongshan University, Guangzhou 510275, CHINA

Tel: +86 20-84112297 Fax: +86 20-84037472

Email: LS11@ZSU.EDU.CN

NOTICES

Medical Entomology

Dr S.Z. Husainy, of Bhopal, India, chief editor of *The Annals of Medical Entomology*, e-mail address <anmedent@sancharnet.in> has asked us to draw the attention of our members to their new website: <http://www.anmedent.com>.

Technical Training Course ANIC, Canberra

Staff of the Australian National Insect Collection provide a training course for entomological technicians working with research collections of insects and related organisms for taxonomic study and identification. This course is designed to teach participants how to collect, prepare and curate entomological material to a stage ready for identification. The course comprises a series of demonstrations on these aspects as they relate to the major orders of insects and related arthropods. Specimen identification is not covered in the course. All demonstrations are conducted by ANIC staff expert in the area of concern. The next course will be held 23 - 27 September 2002, at the CSIRO Entomology Black Mountain Laboratories, Clunies Ross St, Acton, ACT 2601.

For more information contact:

Graham Crompton, ANIC Manager

Phone: (02) 6246 4036

Fax: (02) 6246 4264

Email: graham.crompton@ento.csiro.au

<http://www.ento.csiro.au/products/products.html#training>

A.E.S. PHIL CARNE PRIZE

The Executive takes pleasure in announcing The Australian Entomological Society's Phil Carne Prize. This prize honours contributions made by Dr Phil Carne to the science of entomology and to The Australian Entomological Society, and is intended to foster high-quality entomological research among young scientists. The prize is open to any undergraduate or postgraduate who has submitted a paper to the **Australian Journal of Entomology** and had it accepted for publication within the last year. Entrants may be enrolled full or part-time, and are not required to be members of The Australian Entomological Society. Entries will be reviewed by the normal Journal referring process. The Chief Editor will advise the Executive of the eligible papers and these will be presented to a selection committee appointed and convened by the Vice-President of the Society.

The winner will be invited to present the winning paper at the Society's Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference. The prize will be \$300 plus free conference registration, accommodation, return airfare to the Annual Conference and presentation of a scroll.

Manuscripts and other editorial correspondence should be addressed to Dr Peter Allsopp, Chief Editor, Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Private Bag 4, Bundaberg DC 4670, Queensland.

MACKERRAS MEDAL

Do you know an entomologist who deserves special praise?

The **Mackerras Medal** is the Australian Entomological Society's award for excellence and can be awarded every two years to a financial member of the Society who is: under 50 years of age, pursuing excellent research, and has outstanding personal qualities.

Any financial member, including students, may make a nomination to the Secretary. The nominations should be received at least 3 months before the AGM and must include: Candidate's name and date of birth, academic distinctions, appointments and society memberships, list of publications, and 500 words explaining why the award should be made.

Insect Illustration and Insect Photographic Competitions

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia, 22 – 27 September 2002

Members and non-members of the Australian Entomological Society may submit unpublished and previously undisplayed photographs, drawings or paintings on insects, arachnids or myriapods (maximum 3 per entrant) for one of the following competitions. Entries should be brought to the AGM at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. Winners will be judged on scientific accuracy, artistic quality, and uniqueness of the image. The Society will have the right to display selected works and reproduce them in its Journals or on goods for sale

Insect Illustration Competition

Format: Mounted black and white or coloured whole-body illustrations.

Maximum size: mounted illustrations should not exceed 21 x 30 cms

Categories:

Student black and white

Student colour

Open black and white

Open colour

Prizes:

First - \$250

Second - \$100

Third - \$50

Insect Photographic Competition

Format: Mounted black and white or colour photographs

Maximum size: mounted prints should not exceed 20 x 25 cms

Categories:

Photomicrographs

Colour photographs

Prizes:

First - \$200

Second - \$100

Registration & Call for Abstracts

AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

33rd AGM & Scientific Conference



Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA 22-27 September, 2002

<http://www.esplanadehotelfremantle.com.au>

Registration:	Early Bird:	A\$395 (up to 19/07/02)
	Full:	A\$445
	Student/Conc.:	A\$200
	Day:	A\$150

The final date for acceptance of abstracts is Friday 19 July, 2002.

Please see website for registration guidelines and more details:

<http://aes33rdagm.tripod.com/index.htm>

**THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Please return to: Ms Nancy Endersby, AES Secretary, c/o Institute for Horticultural Development, Private Bag 15, Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre VIC 3156 AUSTRALIA

We, the undersigned

Proposer
(print name) (signature)

Second
(print name) (signature)

being financial members of the Society, propose the following
for membership of the Australian Entomological Society Inc.

Title.....Initials.....Given name.....Family name.....

of (Address)

.....Post Code.....

Tel. Fax

E-mail Degrees, etc.

Interests, experience and publications in entomology for publication in the News Bulletin *Myrmecia* (please attach brief resumé)

I accept nomination and undertake, if elected, to abide by the rules of the Society and to pay annual subscriptions by the date prescribed.

Signature **Date**

For **2002**: Annual subscription \$93.50; full-time student or retired members \$46.75 (incl. GST)
New members receive a first year rebate of \$5.00 (pay \$88.00) and students \$2.50 (pay \$44.00).

Students please attach proof of full-time student status

Payment in Australian dollars is required with nomination and may be made by
MONEY ORDER, CHEQUE (made payable to Australian Entomological Society Inc.) or CREDIT CARD

Bankcard Visa Mastercard

Cardholder Name _____

Number _____

Expiry date __/__/__

Signature _____ I require a receipt

YES/ NO